

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 350

INFO AMCONSULATE ALEXANDRIA

UNCLAS CAIRO 2404

DEPT PASS COMMERCE/NOAA/NMES

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, EG

SUBJECT: SOVIET FISHERY SALES IN AFRICA

REF STATE AIRGRAM A-425

1. FOLLOWING IS INFORMATION CURRENTLY AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY IN RESPONSE TO REFAIR. CONGEN ALEXANDRIA IS PREPARING MORE COMPLETE INFORMATION, WHICH WILL BE SUBMITTED AT EARLY DATE IN FORM OF ANNUAL FISHERIES REPORT. INCOMPLETE INFORMATION BELOW IS KEYED TO POINTS RAISED IN PARA 4 AND 9 OF REF AIRGRAM.

2. QUESTIONS 4A THROUGH C ARE NOT BELIEVED TO BE APPLICABLE TO EGYPT; WE ARE AWARE OF NO ABRUPT FLUCTUATIONS IN SOVIET FISHERY PRODUCT EXPORTS IN RECENT YEARS.

3. QUESTION 4D. SOVIETS DURING PAST THREE YEARS HAVE EXPORTED TO EGYPT PRIMARILY A MACKEREL SPECIES KNOWN LOCALLY AS "SHAKOURA".

4. QUESTION 4E. SHIPMENTS USUALLY ARE TO PORT OF ALEXANDRIA, WHERE THEY ARE RECEIVED BY PUBLIC SECTOR COMPANY AND DISTRIBUTED TO LOCAL COOPERATIVES. CONSUMERS BUY PRODUCTS UNDER RATION SYSTEM. PRICE PER TON IS
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LE 35-45 (\$90-115 AT OFFICIAL RATE).

5. QUESTION 4F. FISHERY SHIPMENTS ARE MADE UNDER SYSTEM OF CLEARING ACCOUNT AGREEMENTS BETWEEN EGYPT AND USSR, TO BE REPAYED BASICALLY BY MEANS OF EGYPTIAN EXPORTS. SWING CREDIT BALANCE, USUALLY IN SOVIET'S FAVOR, REPORTEDLY IS SUBJECT TO INTEREST RATE OF THREE PERCENT. EGYPT MOST RECENTLY HAS USED LARGELY LONG STAPLE COTTON EXPORTS PARTIALLY OF OFFSET DEBT TO SOVIETS.

6. QUESTION 4C. TRANSACTIONS ARE DEONOMIATED IN EGYPTIAN POUNDS.

7. QUESTION 4H. THERE HAVE BEEN NO INDICATIONS THAT IMPORTS OF SOVIET FISHERY PRODUCTS HAVE DISRUPTED THE DOMESTIC EGYPTIAN MARKET.

8. QUESTION RAISED IN PARAGRAPH 9 OF REFAIR:
EGYPTIAN PRESS REPORTED AT END OF JUNE 1975 AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED IN MOSCOW TO INCREASE IMPORTS OF SOVIET FISHERY PRODUCT TO 23,000 TONS OF 1975. AGREEMENT INCLUDED OFFER BY USSR OF 50 SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SPECIALIZED STUDIES IN FISHING EQUIPMENT AND FREEZING AND PRESERVATION OF FISHERY PRODUCTS. GOE'S OFFICIAL JOURNAL, HOWEVER, HAS NEVER MENTIONED AGREEMENT NOR IS THERE ANY INDICATION THAT IT AHS BEEN IMPLEMENTED. POSSIBLY TRAINING PROGRAMS NEVER MATERIZLIZED BECAUSE OF CIRCUMSTANCES CONNECTED WITH EXTENDED - AND UNSUCCESSFUL - EGYPTIAN/SOVIET DEBT RESCHEDULING TALKS IN LATE 1975.
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